

### Composition comprising iscom particles and live micro-organisms

The present invention relates to the use of iscom particles as adjuvant for preparing of an antigenic composition, which comprises live micro-organisms and a composition comprising at least one iscom particle and one or more living micro-organisms.

#### Technical background

Today adjuvants are used to enhance the immunogenicity of antigens which are not replicating i.e. in so-called killed or inactivated vaccines. Although, many vaccines contain several kinds of vaccine antigens in order to cover immune protection against several infectious diseases live and killed vaccine antigens are not mixed. One reason for that is that killed vaccines need adjuvant to enhance the efficacy of killed vaccines.

Live vaccines contain micro-organisms that replicate in the host i.e. the live attenuated vaccine antigens which are micro-organisms that are closely related to the pathogen i.e. the micro-organisms that cause disease. Thus, the host is producing most of the vaccine antigens when replicating vaccine antigens are used resulting in *in vivo* production of high doses of vaccine antigens in the host.

Moreover, the production of vaccine antigens in the host over a period of time contributes also to make the live vaccines effective, and even one administration of an efficient live vaccine often suffice to evoke long lasting immune protection. For certain pathogens there is no live properly attenuated micro-organism available to present them in a vaccine, either because the attenuation is not achieved, or that after the attenuation the micro-organism does not induce a potent immune protection.

There are both practical and economical reasons to give the vaccine antigens in one or as few administrations as possible, when there is a defined period for vaccination. Such a period is in the early childhood respectively new-born animals when a vaccine for protection against up to seven different infectious diseases are given in one

injection. Another period is when a large number of animals are gathered in e.g. fattening units from different farms and regions. Still another such a period is before travel to exotic countries to induce immune protection against exotic infectious diseases, i.e. pathogens that are not present in the home country.

Most vaccines for dogs are used in puppies and the first vaccination is carried out just before or at the time for delivery to the new owner. There is a strong tendency, not to say desire, to avoid more than one primary administration of vaccine and limit the number of re-vaccinations. Most vaccines in dogs are live and killed vaccine antigens are avoided in multicomponent dog and cat vaccines, mainly due to the fact of the difficulty to combine live and killed vaccines. Thus a dog vaccine today is mostly a live multicomponent vaccine (and) composed to protect against up to seven different infectious diseases.

A frequently used killed vaccine for dog and cat is the rabies virus vaccine. *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (Bb) is also desired as a killed vaccine, since the live vaccine cause side affects. A killed Bb component vaccine (sub unit) would need adjuvant supplementation. These vaccines are single component vaccines. The killed Rabies virus vaccine requires adjuvant, and so far aluminium hydroxide is used, which adsorb the micro-organisms and interfere thereby with their replication.

In cat, the feline leukemia virus is a killed vaccine (sub unit) based on gp70, being a surface protein of the virus. Also this vaccine antigen requires adjuvant. The present used adjuvant formulation is composed of free saponin (QS21) and Al(OH)3, a mixture that will lyse viral membranes and kill the virus. The Al(OH)3 component cause in rare cases fibrosarcoma, conceived to be caused by the depot effects of some adjuvants e.g., oil or Al(OH)3 (report from the Veterinary Products Committee Working Group on Feline and Canine Vaccination Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Publications Admail 6000 London SW1A2XX)

Thus, there is a desire to be able to use killed and live vaccines mixed in a common formulation and that they should be compatible with each other in the formulation. Further an adjuvant present in a vaccine formulation must not cause adverse side effects.

It has now surprisingly turned out that iscoms and iscom matrix particles can be used as adjuvants for killed vaccine antigens e.g. in a multi component vaccine without causing negative effects on the live replicating vaccine components. This is contrary to most (other) commonly used adjuvants that decrease the capacity of the live micro-organisms to replicate.

Unexpectedly, the iscom/iscom-matrix adjuvant was not only harmless to the live components, it also enhanced the immune response against the live vaccine components.

#### Summary of the invention

The present invention relates to the use of iscom particle(s) as adjuvant in a formulation of vaccine antigens, which comprise at least one iscom – iscom matrix particle together with a non-replicating vaccine antigen and one or more living micro-organisms.

Several saponins formulated in iscom and iscom matrix have been tested for their effect on various viruses, which are involved in vaccine formulations. Live vaccine antigens were mixed with the adjuvant formulation and the mixture incubated for two or more hours. Thereafter, the capacity of the micro-organism to replicate in cell cultures or in a host, in this case in a chicken embryo, was measured. The iscom particles did not hamper the replication of the live micro-organisms and even enhanced proliferation contrary to several other commonly used adjuvant, that were tested.

Detailed description of the invention

The present invention relates to the use of an iscom or iscom matrix particle as adjuvant together with one or more non-replicating i.e. killed vaccine antigen(s) in an antigenic composition, which comprises at least one type of live micro-organism. The killed vaccine antigen may also include virus and bacteria (vectors) that contain foreign antigen(s) of interest for prophylaxes and therapy expressed by inserted genes in the vector.

By live micro-organism we understand a micro-organism that can replicate in the host. The live micro-organism must not be in a condition to cause adverse reactions in the host. Therefore, preferably attenuated micro-organisms are used. Attenuation is known in the art and may be performed as described in New Vaccine Technologies (2001) Ed. Ronald W Ellis, Landes Bioscience, Georgetown, Texas, USA.

The live i.e. replicating micro-organism may be any micro-organism of interest for use as an antigen for triggering or modulating the immune system. It also includes virus and bacteria (vectors) that contain foreign antigen(s) of interest for prophylaxes and therapy expressed by inserted genes in the vector. The micro-organisms may be chosen from viruses including smallpox virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, yellow fever vaccines, poliovirus vaccines, measles vaccines, rubella vaccines, mumps vaccines and trivalent vaccines including measles, mumps-rubella vaccines or even one more live virus vaccine i.e. varicella vaccine; gram + and gram- live bacterial vaccines including live attenuated mycobacterium bovis (BCG Tuberculosis Vaccine), live attenuated *Salmonella typhi*, live attenuated *Shigella* spp, live virulence-attenuated *vibrio cholerae*, pediatric. Example of an adeno vector is a vaccine expressing a tumor antigen p53 registered for therapy of head and neck squamous carcinoma. In clinical trials is a cervical cancer vaccine where the antigen is expressed by a vaccinia virus (modified vaccinia Ankara /MVA) (Nature Biotechnology Vol 22 No1 Jan 2004).

Examples of live vaccines in animals, but not limited to the examples, are vaccines against Canine distemper virus, Canine parvovirus, Canine adenovirus, Boredetella bronchseptica virus, Parainfluenza 3 viruses in dogs and cattle, Feline parvovirus such as Feline panleukopenia virus, Feline calici virus, Feline herpesvirus and Feline Chlamydia psittaci virus. Examples of replicating vector vaccine for cat is feline leukemia virus vaccine, in which the surface protein gp70 of the virus is expressed by a canarypox virus (ALVAC) and the poultry vaccines against Marek disease where the vaccine antigen is expressed by the ALVAC vector and the vaccine against infectious bursa disease virus for which also the ALVAC vector is used.

One purpose of the invention is to raise the vaccine effect of live, preferably attenuated micro-organisms.

At present killed and live (replicating) vaccines are often not presented in the same vaccine formulation. In the cases when live and non-replicating (killed) vaccine antigens are used there is today no adjuvant component.

Therefore, another purpose of the invention is to provide a composition where live possibly attenuated micro-organisms are mixed with killed micro-organisms and an adjuvant.

Thus, the iscom particles may also be used in a composition that further comprises at least one killed or inactivated micro-organism together with one or more live micro-organisms. Inactivation is known in the art and may be performed as described in New Vaccine Technologies (2001) Ed. Ronald W Ellis, Landes Bioscience, Georgetown, Texas, USA or as described by Rueda. P. et al. 2001. Vaccine 19 (2001) p. 726-734. Effect of different baculo virus inactivation procedures on the integrity and immunogenecity of Porcine Parvo virus - like particles.

Different species of micro-organisms may be used in the same composition comprising the iscom particles or in different compositions for co administration at the same event.

The invention also relates to the use of the iscom particles together with live micro-organisms in a vaccine composition for eliciting an immune protection in a host treated with the vaccine. Live attenuated vaccines are sometimes overattenuated and thus poorly immunogenic and it is of great interest to improve the immunogenicity also of the live vaccine components.

Inactivated bacterial vaccines that include conjugate or sub-unit vaccines such as group Streptococci, group A Streptococci, Haemophilus influenzae, Neisseria meningitidis, bordetella pertussis, Streptococcus pneumonia, Mycoplasma pneumonia. Examples of adult attenuated vaccine are those against cholera enterotoxic E coli, shigellosis etc.

Killed vaccines, but not limited to the examples are, for use in animals (dogs) parvovirus vaccine, rabiesvirus vaccines, vaccines against leptospirosis such as Leptospira canicola, Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae and vaccine against respiratory syncytial and bovine virus diarrhoea virus, bovine herpes virus 1 in cattle, or influenza viruses in horse. For cats there are Feline panleukopenia (parvo) virus vaccine, Feline calici virus vaccine, Feline herpesvirus vaccine, Feline Chlamydia psittaci vaccine, Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) vaccine and Feline rabies vaccine .

Examples of killed vaccines for use in humans are inactivated virus vaccines include tick-borne encephalitis-, rabies-, hepatitis A-, polio-, influenza viruses.

The invention may be used with any killed or live preferably attenuated micro-organism for any species and the above mentioned examples do not limit the scope of the invention.

The invention also relates to the use of iscom particles whereby the antigenic composition further comprises one or more antigenic molecules.

The iscom particle may be an iscom or an iscom matrix particle or any sub-fragment thereof.

Iscom contains at least one glycoside, at least one lipid, and at least one kind of antigen substance or epitope. These substances may be of different kind such as proteins and peptides, glycoproteins and glycopeptides, carbohydrates etc. These complexes enhance the immunogenicity of the included antigens and may also contain one or more immunomodulatory (adjuvant-active) substances. Iscoms may be prepared as described in EP 0 109 942 B1, EP 0 242 380 B1 and EP 0 180 546 B1.

Matrix contains at least one glycoside, which is an adjuvant-active substance and at least one lipid. Matrix has an immunoenhancing effect on co-administered antigenic substances, see EP 0 436 620 B1. Matrix may contain other immunostimulating and enhancing components than saponins e.g. lipopolysaccharides (LPS), Lipid A or Lipid A derivatives, CT or LT and their sub-fragments or derivatives thereof e.g., LTB, LTA, CTB, CTA or CTA1-DD.

Iscom particles containing such antigenic molecules integrated into the particle, coupled on to the particle or simply mixed into the composition may be used together with the live and/or inactivated micro-organisms.

The lipids used are particularly those described in the applicant's patent EP 0 109 942 B1 in particular on p. 3 and in patent EP 0 436 620 B1 on p. 7 lines 7-24. Especially sterols such as cholesterol and phospholipids such as phosphatidylethanolamin and phosphatidylcolin are used. Lipid-containing receptors that bind to the cell-binding components, such as glycolipids including the cholera toxin's receptor, which is the ganglioside GM1, and fucosed blood group antigen may be used. The cell-binding components can then function as mucus targeting molecule and be bound to the lipid-containing substances through simply mixing them with complexes that contain them. Iscom complexes comprising such receptors and receptors are described in WO 97/30728

The glycoside in the iscom particles may be any glucoside. Preferred glucosides are described in EP 0 109 924 B1. Especially preferred are raw extract from *Quillaja Saponaria Molina*" (Dalsgaard, K. (1974), Arch. Gesamte Virusforsch, 44, 243.), or any subfraction thereof as described in PCT/US/88101842 to Kensil et al., Kensil, C.A. et al. (1991), J. Immunol., 146, 431, Kersten, G.F.A. et al. (1990). "Aspects of Iscoms. Analytical, Pharmaceutical and Adjuvant Properties; Thesis, University of Utrecht, EP 0 362 279 B2 and EP 0 555 276 B1

The saponin fractions according to the invention may be the A, B and C fractions described in WO 96/11711, the B3, B4 and B4b fractions described in EP 0 436 620 The fractions QA1-22 described in EP 0 3632 279 B2, Q-VAC (Nor-Feed, AS Denmark), *Quillaja Saponaria Molina* Spikoside (Isconova AB, Uppsala Science Park, 751 83, Uppsala, Sweden )

The fractions QA-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21 and 22 of EP 0 3632 279 B2, Especially QA-7, 17-18 and 21 may be used. They are obtained as described in EP 0 3632 279 B2, especially at page 6 and in Example 1 on page 8 and 9.

Preferably sub fractions A and C are used. It has surprisingly turned out that A-matrix and C-matrix enhances virus growth (see Example 2).

The term " one saponin fraction from *Quillaja Saponaria Molina*." is used throughout this specification and in the claims as a generic description of a semi-purified or defined saponin fraction of *Quillaja Saponaria* or a substantially pure fraction. It is important that the fraction does not contain as much of any other fraction to negatively affect the good results that are obtained when the mixtures of iscom or iscom matrix comprising essentially one fraction is used. The saponin preparation may, if desired, include minor amounts for example up to 40% by weight, such as up to 30 % by weight, up to 25 % by weight, up to 20 % by weight, up to 15 % by weight, up to 10 %

by weight, up to 7 % by weight, up to 5 % by weight, up to 2 % by weight, up to 1 % by weight, up to 0,5 % by weight up to 0,1 % by weight of other compounds such as other saponins or other adjuvant materials.

The antigenic molecules may be coupled on to the iscom matrix particle or simply mixed into the composition and used together with the live and/or inactivated micro-organisms.

The antigenic molecules which may be incorporated into or associated with the iscom matrix in accordance with this invention may be any chemical entity which can induce an immune response in an individual such as (but not limited to) a human or other animal, including but not limited to a humoral and/or cell-mediated immune response to bacteria, viruses, mycoplasma or other micro-organisms. The specific immunogen can be a protein or peptide, a carbohydrate, polysaccharide, a lipopolysaccharide or a lipopeptide; or it can be a combination of any of these.

Particularly, the specific antigenic molecule can include a native protein or protein fragment, or a synthetic protein or protein fragment or peptide; it can include glycoprotein, glycopeptide, lipoprotein, lipopeptide, nucleoprotein, nucleopeptide; it can include a peptide-peptide conjugate; it can include a recombinant nucleic acid expression product.

Examples of such immunogens are cited in EP 0 109 942 B1 and include, but are not limited to, those that are capable of eliciting an immune response against viral or bacterial hepatitis, influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, pneumococcus, herpes, respiratory syncytial virus, haemophilus influenza, chlamydia, varicella-zoster virus, rabies or human immunodeficiency virus.

Any type of iscom particle, iscom matrix particle, live and inactivated microorganism and antigenic substance may be used together in a composition for use as an antigenic or immune modulating agent according to the invention.

Also, one or more iscom particles, iscom matrix particles, live and inactivated micro-organisms and antigenic substances may be used together in a composition for use as an antigenic or immune modulating agent according to the invention

The invention also concerns a composition comprising at least one iscom particle and one or more living micro-organisms. The composition may be a vaccine, wherein the living micro-organism is a virus. Such a composition may further comprise one or more killed or inactivated micro-organisms. It may also comprise one or more antigenic molecules.

The composition may be used for animals within the veterinary medicine and for humans.

Pharmaceutical and veterinary medicine compositions according to the present invention, and for use in accordance with the present invention, may include, in addition to active ingredient, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, carrier, buffer, stabiliser, additive or other materials well known to those skilled in the art. Such materials should be non-toxic and should not interfere with the efficacy of the active ingredient. The precise nature of the carrier or other material will depend on the route of administration.

A live vaccine antigen is generally freeze dried and before administration the vaccine antigens (live micro-organisms) are dissolved in a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent. The solubilized, or suspended vaccine antigens shall immediately be administered to the individual. Before administration the freeze dried antigen is dissolved/suspended in a solvent that may contain the adjuvant i.e. iscom matrix or iscom formulation with or without the killed vaccine and/or antigenic substance(s). Alternatively before suspending/solubilizing of the freeze dried component in the vaccine the solvent is mixed with the iscom matrix and/or iscom particles and/or the killed micro-organisms and/or the antigenic molecules.

The pharmaceutically acceptable solvent may be a buffer e.g. PBS.

The live micro-organisms are preferably supplied freeze dried separate from the adjuvant particles.

Thus, the invention also relates to a kit of parts comprising at least one compartment containing at least one living organism and at least one compartment containing at least one iscom particle.

A kit of parts may comprise different compartments e.g. one or more compartments comprising at least one freeze dried live micro-organism and at least one compartment comprising at least one iscom particle. The iscom particle is preferably dissolved or suspended in a pharmaceutical acceptable solvent.

Another embodiment according to the invention relates to a kit of parts, which further comprises also at least one inactivated micro-organism, which may be present in a further compartment or in the same compartment as one compartment containing at least one iscom particle.

When antigenic molecules are present they may be integrated into or coupled on to an iscom particle or mixed with one or more iscom matrix particles and kept in the same compartment.

The amount of antigenic substance, inactivated micro-organism and live micro-organism is dependent on the substance and micro-organisms used and the individual to be treated. The content of live micro-organism further depends on the constitution of the micro-organism. For inactivated non living micro-organism the in small animals the low dose is 0.1  $\mu$ g up to 100  $\mu$ g, for large animals the low dose range from 10  $\mu$ g up to 300  $\mu$ g that said not to be limiting borders. In humans the dose ranges are 1  $\mu$ g up to 200  $\mu$ g not being the limiting border.

The invention will now be further described by way of non-limiting examples. All references mentioned herein are incorporated by reference.

## EXAMPLE 1

### Preparation of Iscom-Matrix and ISCOMs

In the following experiments ISCOMs and Iscom-Matrix are used as vaccine adjuvant antigen delivery and adjuvant systems. Their capacity to enhance the immunogenicity of selected vaccine antigens are explored in the following experiments in formulations containing both killed vaccine antigens (non-replicating) and live vaccine antigens i.e. replicating. Useful formulations must both enhance the immunogenicity of the killed vaccine antigen and be compatible with the live vaccine antigen i.e. they must not reduce the replication and the immunogenicity of the live vaccine antigens. It would be beneficial if the ISCOMs and Iscom-Matrix also enhance the immunogenicity of the live vaccine antigens. In the following experiments these properties are explored in cell culture systems, in embryos and in an animal (mammal) model. The key to succeed with the formulations is that the potential negative properties of each constituent are not affecting the vaccine formulation negatively. E.g. the free quillaja saponin is very lytic and will lyse the enveloped virus used here and also the cells these viruses infect. Other adjuvants may have other negative effects e.g. by trapping the live vaccine antigen. This example describes the formulation of ISCOM and Iscom-Matrix, which neutralise and block negative effects of the free quillaja constituents.

Iscom-Matrix and ISCOMs were prepared as described in EP 0 109 942 B1, EP 0 242 380 B1, EP 0 180 546 B1 and EP 0 436 620 B1. A more detailed description of the specific examples in the present application is given below.

### Materials

Cholesterol, e.g., Sigma C8503 (USA)

Phosphatidyl choline (egg derived) e.g., Lipoid E-PC (Germany)

MEGA-10 (Bachem AG, Switzerland)

Octyl glucoside (Bachem, Switzerland)

Quillaja saponin Fraction A and C (Patent WO9611711)

Semipurified saponin preparations, Spikoside (Inconova AB, Sweden) and Q-VAC (Norfeed AS, Denmark)

0,22 µm Sterile filters (Acrodisc)

PBS (10 mM phosphate buffered 150 mM saline, pH 6,8-7,4)

Slide-A-Lyzer casett MW cut off 12-14.000, Pierce (USA) 0,5 – 3 ml and 3-15 ml.

### Virus

Purified influenza virus A/PR/8/34 (H1N1), 6,0 mg/ml

Purified bovine Respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), 3,7 mg/ml

### MEGA-10 (stock solution)

A 20% (w/w) stock solution was prepared by dissolving 2,0 g dry solid MEGA-10 in 8 ml distilled water, under gentle heating (30 - 50°C). The solution was filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter, divided in aliquotes and stored at – 20 °C until use.

### Octyl glucoside (stock solution)

A 20% (w/w) stock solution was prepared by dissolving 2,0 g dry Octyl glucoside in 8 ml distilled water under gentle heating (30 - 50°C). The solution was filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter, divided in aliquotes and store at – 20 °C until use.

### Lipid mixture (15 mg/ml in MEGA-10)

150 mg of each cholesterol and phosphatidyl choline was dissolved in 10 ml 20% MEGA-10, by gentle heating (30-60°C) with slow stirring. The solution was filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter, divided in aliquotes and store at – 20 °C until use. Before use the frozen lipid mixtures was heated to 40-50 °C until clear.

Lipid mixture (10 mg/ml in Octylglucoside) 100 mg of each cholesterol and phosphatidyl choline was dissolved in 10 ml 20% Octylglucoside under gentle heating (30-60°C) with slow stirring. The solution was filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter, divided in aliquotes and stored at – 20 °C until use. Before use the frozen lipid mixtures were heated to 40-50 °C until the solution was clear.

Saponin stock solutions (100 mg/ml)

1,0 gram of *Quillaja saponaria* Molina fractions A or C respectively or a mixture of 0,7 g A and 0,3 g C, Spikoside or Q-VAC was dissolved in 10,0 ml of distilled water. The solutions were filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter, and the aliquotes were stored at – 20 °C until use.

The Iscom-Matrix preparations were produced as outlined in Table 1. The mixtures were prepared as follows using the MEGA-10 dissolved lipids;

1. 2 ml PBS was added to a 50 ml Falcon tube
2. the lipid mixtur was added
3. saponin was added and the mixture was mixed
4. PBS was added up to a final volume of 12 ml
5. the solution was mixed thoroughly and incubated at r.t.
6. the solution was filled into Slide-A-Lyzer
7. the solution was dialysed against 4 changes of PBS (r.t. for 48-60 hours)
8. the solution was aspirated from Slide-A-Lyser and filtered through 0,22 µm sterile filter.

Table 1

Preparation (MATRIX)	Lipid mixture (15 mg/ml)		Quillaja saponin (Frac A and/or C)		PBS
	Amount	Volume (µl)	Amount (mg)	Volume (µl)	Volume

	(mg)				(µl)
Matrix-A	12	800	48*	480	2,0 + 8,72
Matrix-C	12	800	30**	300	2,0 + 8,90
MB-703	12	800	42***	420	2,0 + 8,78
Spikoside- Matrix	12	800	60 <sup>S</sup>	600	2,0 + 8,60
Q-VAC - Matrix	12	800	120 <sup>Q</sup>	1200	2,0 + 8,00

\* - Fraction A alone

\*\* - Fraction C alone

\*\*\* - Fraction A+ C mixture, consisting of 7 parts (mg) A+3 parts (mg) C

S - Spikoside

Q - Q-VAC

The formation of Iscom-Matrix was verified by negative staining electron microscopy and the resulting concentrations of saponin were determined by HPLC. (San Martin and Briones, Quality control of commercial quillaja (Quillaja saponaria Molina) extracts by reverse phase HPLC. *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, 80:2063-2068, 2000.

Matrix MM-703 was prepared by mixing 5,5 ml of Matrix-A with 3,0 ml of Matrix-C

#### Preparation of PR8 (influenza) and BRSV (bovine respiratory syncytial virus) ISCOMs

Purified virus was (PR8 and BRSV respectively) were diluted in PBS to a concentration of 2,0 mg/ml.

The PR8 virus was solubilized by addition of MEGA-10 to a final concentration of 2% (w/w), the mixture was incubated for 30-60 min at r.t.

The BRSV virus was solubilized by addition of Octylglucoside to a final concentration of 1% (w/w), the mixture was incubated for 30-60 min at r.t.

The viral core was removed from the solubilized virus suspensions by ultracentrifugation and the supernatants containing the solubilized viral envelope glycoproteins were submitted for aminoacid analysis prior to further incorporation into ISCOMs.

Per one mg of viral glycoproteins was added 1 mg of each cholesterol and phosphatidyl choline from the stock solutions (PR8/MEGA-10 and BRSV/Octyl glucoside) and 3,5 mg of Fraction A+ C mixture (as described in Table 1 above) or 5 mg of Spikoside. The mixtures were incubated and filled into Slide-A-Lyzer cassettes (0,5 – 3 ml). The cassettes were dialysed against 4 changes of PBS for 24-48 h at r.t. The formation of iscoms and incorporation of the viral glycoproteins was verified by electron microscopy and analytical sucrose-density gradient centrifugations as described before EP 0 109 942 B1.

## EXAMPLE 2

### ISCOM and Iscom matrix formulations do not reduce the virus proliferation in chicken embryos in contrast to the conventionally used oil and aluminumhydroxide adjuvants

This example was carried out to explore the effect of various adjuvants on the replication of virus in chicken embryos. The negative effect can either depend on the effect of the respective adjuvants on the virus or on the cells being the target for virus infection.

The following adjuvant formulations were tested for their effect on live virus to explore if they would interfere with live virus antigen replication in the chicken embryo: A-matrix, C-matrix, 703-matrix, (MB703) crude Spikoside matrix, oil adjuvant (Freunds incomplete Adjuvant, aluminiumhydroxide (Allhydrogel, Superfos AS), influenza virus iscoms and bovine respiratory syncytial virus iscoms. The Iscom and Iscom-Matrix preparations were prepared as described in EXAMPLE 1.

From a stock solution of influenza virus (allantoic fluid seed-virus), containing 10 log 9 a dilution in PBS 10 log 6 was prepared as working dilution. To one ml of this

working virus dilution 50, 100 and 200 µg of each of the adjuvant formulations were added. The virus – adjuvant mixtures were incubated for at least 2 hrs at r.t. before 100 µl were injected into the allantoic fluid of 11 days embryonated hens eggs. The allantoic fluid was harvested at day 18 of hatch. The level of virus replication was measured as embryo infectious dose 50 (EID50) i.e. the end point where 50% of the embryos are infected. The detection of infection, i.e. the presence virus in the allantoic fluid from the embryonated egg, is based on the phenomenon that the influenza virus aggregates chicken red blood cells so-called hemagglutination (HA).

### Results

Four control groups, which included 7 to 10 embryos each, were infected with influenza virus that was not pre-incubated with any of the adjuvant formulations. The EID50 titres ranged between 10 log 9.2 to 10 9.5.

None of the matrix or iscom formulations mentioned above reduced the EID50 titres compared to the EID50 titres measured in the control groups. In contrast oil and aluminumhydroxide reduced the EID50 titres more than a 10 log, which is unacceptable for blending with live vaccine antigens i.e. they can not be used in a vaccine containing live vaccine antigens (United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary (USP–NF)). Thus, it is concluded that the matrix formulations are “compatible” for use in vaccines, which contain live micro-organisms.

### **EXAMPLE 3**

Selected ISCOM and Iscom matrix formulations do not reduce the virus replication in cell cultures in contrast to Spikoside matrix, free saponin C, free 703 and free Spikoside, oil adjuvant and aluminiumhydroxide, which decreased the virus proliferation

Cell culture systems are sensitive in vitro systems for measuring virus replication. In this example the following adjuvant formulations were tested to explore if they

interfered with the replication of various viruses. The following viruses were selected for the test because they are important targets for vaccines in various animal species: The indicator virus was canine distemper virus (CDV) in VERO cell cultures tested against A-matrix, C-matrix, 703 matrix (MB703), Spikoside matrix, Q-VAC matrix, oil adjuvant, aluminiumhydroxide, free saponin A, free saponin C, free 703 and free spikoside, influenza virus iscoms and bovine respiratory syncytial virus iscoms. The Iscom and Iscom-Matrix preparations were prepared as described in EXAMPLE 1.

### Methods

From a stock solution of CDV containing  $10 \log_5$  a 10-fold dilution in virus medium without serum was prepared as working dilution. To one ml of this virus dilution 50, 100 and 200  $\mu\text{g}$  of either of the adjuvant formulations was added. The virus-adjuvant mixtures were incubated for at least 2 hrs before 200  $\mu\text{l}$  of the virus-adjuvant mixture in dilutions  $10\log_{-1}$  (calculated from stock virus) to dilution  $10\log_{-5}$  were allowed to adsorb for 1 to 2 hours at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  to vero cell cultures adherent to the  $25 \text{ cm}^2$  plastic surface in Costar flasks (No. 3055, Corning Inc., Corning, N.Y. 14831, USA). Thereafter, virus suspensions respectively virus-adjuvant suspensions were removed as far as possible and cell culture medium containing 2% calf serum was added to each flask.

The level of virus replication was measured as tissue culture infectious dose 50 (TCID<sub>50</sub>), i.e. the end point where 50% of the tissue cultures are infected. The detection of infection, i.e. the presence virus in the tissue cultures is based on the cell destruction the virus is causing i.e. cytopatic effect (CPE). The specificity of the reaction was confirmed by immunofluorescens or by neutralisation of recovered virus from the cell cultures. The cultures were followed and examined for 8 days when the virus controls showed 50 to 100% CPE (cell destruction), while uninfected cultures still had confluent layers of cells.

The virus controls included virus in the same dilutions treated in the same way as the virus-adjuvant mixtures, except that the virus suspensions were not mixed with the adjuvant formulations.

The cell controls were uninfected cells.

Each mixture and control assay was carried out in four replicates.

### Results

The four virus controls, i.e. CDV that was not pre-incubated with any of the adjuvant formulations, titred out to 4.7 TCID<sub>50</sub> 10LOG titres.

A-matrix, C-matrix treated virus titered both out to 5.7 i.e. a ten fold higher titre than the virus control i.e. an un-expected increase of virus growth.

703 matrix (4.7), A + C-matrix (4.7), Q-VAC matrix (4.5), free saponin A, influenza virus Iscoms (4.9) and bovine respiratory syncytial virus Iscoms (4.4). The titres in brackets show that all these formulations did not significantly differ from the titres of the virus control.

Spikoside matrix, free saponin C, free 703 and free spikoside, oil adjuvant and aluminiumhydroxide decreased more than a ten fold the virus titres compared to the virus control.

### Conclusion

Spikoside matrix, free saponin C, free 703 and free spikoside, oil adjuvant and aluminiumhydroxide can not be used together with live vaccine antigens, because they decrease the capacity to replicate, when mixed with the live vaccine antigens (United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary (USP-NF)).

703 matrix, A + C-matrix, Q-VAC matrix, free saponin A, influenza virus Iscoms and respiratory syncytial virus Iscoms can all be used as adjuvant in a vaccine containing vaccine components.

A-matrix, C-matrix treated enhanced virus growth in cell cultures an un-expected result, which can lead to increased efficacy.

#### EXAMPLE 4

Iscom-Matrix strongly enhances the immunogenicity in ferrets of a killed rabies virus vaccine not hampering, rather enhancing the immunogenicity of the live vaccine components included in the vaccine

In previous examples the effect of various adjuvants were tested for their effect on replication of live vaccine antigens in vitro in cell cultures and in vivo in chicken embryos. In this example the immunogenicity is analysed in an animal (ferret) model using a commercial live multi-component vaccine. The intention was to demonstrate that an Iscom-Matrix formulation selected to enhance a killed rabies virus vaccine antigen has no negative effect on the immunogenicity of the live vaccine antigens included in the formulation. The live vaccine components were selected because they are commonly included in commercial vaccines for dog.

#### Experimental layout

18 Ferrets were divided into three groups of 6 ferrets. Group 1 was vaccinated at week 0 with a commercial live vaccine (live attenuated vaccine against Canine Distemper, Adeno, Parvo and Parainfluenza virus) mixed with purified killed rabies virus component. At week 4, the Ferrets were boosted with the killed Rabies virus component.

Groups 2 and 3 were vaccinated at week 0 with the same commercial live vaccine (live attenuated vaccine against Canine Distemper, Adeno, Parvo and Parainfluenza virus) mixed with purified killed rabies virus component adjuvanted with either of two different Iscom-Matrix preparations i.e. MM703 and MB703 respectively (prepared as described in Example 1). At week 4, the Ferrets were boosted with the killed Rabies virus component alone (Group 1) or the Rabies component mixed with either of the two Matrix adjuvant preparations. The outline of the immunisation is presented in Table 2.

Both the vaccines (freeze-dried live vaccine antigens and freeze-dried killed Rabiesvirus antigen) were reconstituted in either sterile PBS or sterile PBS supplemented with 75 µg/ml of either MM703 or MB703. Vaccines were administered subcutaneously according the manufacturer of the live vaccine. One ml vaccine was administered per dose.

Table 2

Group	1 <sup>st</sup> vaccination (week 0)	2 <sup>nd</sup> vaccination (week 4)
1	Live vaccine+ Killled Rabies	Killled Rabies
2	Live vaccine + Killed Rabies + MM703	Killed Rabies + MM703
3	Live vaccine + Killed Rabies + MB703	Killed Rabies + MB703

The Ferrets were bled at week 0, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8, and the sera were tested for antibodies against the vaccine components. The tests used were standard indirect ELISA used for routine sero-diagnostics and specially developed blocking ELISA's to confirm the specificity of the results.

## RESULTS

The results are shown in Table 3 (indirect ELISA) and Table 4 (blocking ELISA).

Analyses in the conventional ELISA revealed that the serum antibody responses, were higher against both live antigens and against the killed rabies virus vaccine antigen in the animals immunised with the vaccine supplemented with the MM703 and MB703 formulations than in the control group, i.e. the animals in the group that was immunised with the non-adjuvanted vaccine.

Analyses by the blocking ELISA test showed that the CDV live antigen induced similar levels of serum antibody responses in all groups. The immune response to the other live vaccine antigens was enhanced both by MM703 and MB703 formulations. These adjuvant formulations enhanced considerably the serum anti body levels to the killed rabies virus vaccine antigen.

For none of the viruses tested did ferrets in the groups given a mixture of live virus and any of the two Matrix preparations respond with titres lower than the ferrets in group 1. Ferrets in group 1 were vaccinated with the live attenuated virus without Matrix adjuvant. Contrary, a surprisingly high number of ferrets that received the live vaccine mixed with either of the two Matrix adjuvants, responded with higher titres than those receiving non-adjuvanted live vaccine.

**Table 3**

Indirect ELISA analysis of serum samples from Ferrets vaccinated with a combination live viral vaccine and killed Rabies vaccine, with or without additional Iscom-Matrix Adjuvant.

Groups	CAV						CDV					
	wk 0	wk 2	wk 4	wk 5	wk 6	wk 8	wk 0	wk 2	wk 4	wk 5	wk 6	wk 8
<b>Control Group</b>												
Ferret #1	40	450	40	150	40	40	40	150	50	50	150	40
Ferret #2	40	100	50	150	40	40	40	150	50	40	150	40
Ferret #3	40	450	150	150	50	50	40	150	40	40	50	150
Ferret #4	40	150	100	150	50	50	40	150	50	40	50	40
Ferret #5	40	150	40	450	40	40	40	450	50	50	50	40
Ferret #6	40	150	50	50	50	40	40	450	150	40	50	100
<b>MB703</b>												
Ferret #7	40	450	450	2700	1350	1350	40	150	450	450	450	450
Ferret #8	40	450	150	1350	450	450	40	150	50	50	50	40
Ferret #9	40	450	1350	4050	2700	1350	40	450	450	450	450	150
Ferret #10	40	50	40	1350	50	50	40	150	50	40	50	50
Ferret #11	40	150	40	40	50	40	50	150	50	40	50	50
Ferret #12	40	450	1350	4050	4050	2700	40	450	450	450	450	450
<b>MM703</b>												
Ferret #13	40	50	450	1350	1350	150	40	150	150	50	150	50
Ferret #14	40	150	1350	2700	12150	2700	40	150	150	450	450	450
Ferret #15	40	450	50	40	40	40	40	50	50	40	40	40
Ferret #16	450	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-
Ferret #17	40	50	1350	4050	2700	1350	40	450	450	450	150	150
Ferret #18	40	150	40	40	50	50	40	1350	40	40	40	40

Groups	CPV						CPI 5					
	wk 0	wk 2	wk 4	wk 5	wk 6	wk 8	wk 0	wk 2	wk 4	wk 5	wk 6	wk 8
<b>Control Group</b>												
Ferret #1	40	40	450	450	40	50	40	150	40	50	40	40
Ferret #2	40	40	450	450	40	150	40	150	40	50	40	40
Ferret #3	40	150	300	450	50	40	40	150	40	50	40	40
Ferret #4	450	150	450	1350	300	300	40	150	40	40	40	150
Ferret #5	40	40	40	450	40	50	40	450	40	100	40	40
Ferret #6	40	100	40	450	40	40	40	450	40	50	40	40
<b>MB703</b>												
Ferret #7	40	1350	1350	4050	1350	4050	40	150	40	450	40	50
Ferret #8	150	1350	1350	4050	1350	1350	40	150	40	40	40	40
Ferret #9	100	4050	4050	12150	4050	4050	40	40	40	1350	150	50
Ferret #10	150	450	1350	4050	450	1350	40	150	40	40	40	40
Ferret #11	100	450	150	300	150	900	50	150	50	40	50	40
Ferret #12	40	100	450	1350	450	1350	40	150	40	2700	1350	1350
<b>MM703</b>												
Ferret #13	150	1350	4050	12150	12150	12150	40	100	40	40	40	40
Ferret #14	150	1350	12150	12150	4050	12150	150	150	50	1350	1350	450
Ferret #15	40	100	1350	4050	900	4050	40	100	50	40	40	40
Ferret #16	40	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-
Ferret #17	100	100	450	4050	450	4050	40	50	50	1350	150	450
Ferret #18	40	450	1350	4050	450	1350	40	450	40	450	40	40

1. All results are in Arbitrary Units (AU)

2. CAV = canine adenovirus, CDV = canine distemper virus, CPV = canine parvovirus, CPI 5 = canine parainfluenzavirus 5, Rab = rabies

3. - = no data

**Table 3 (continuation)**

Indirect ELISA analysis of serum samples from Ferrets vaccinated with a combination live viral vaccine and killed Rabies vaccine, with or without additional Iscom-Matrix Adjuvant.

Groups	Rab wk 0	Rab wk 2	Rab wk 4	Rab wk 5	Rab wk 6	Rab wk 8
<b>Control Group</b>						
Ferret #1	40	150	450	150	150	50
Ferret #2	40	150	450	40	50	40
Ferret #3	40	50	900	40	40	40
Ferret #4	40	50	900	40	40	40
Ferret #5	40	450	450	50	40	40
Ferret #6	40	150	450	50	50	40
<b>MB703</b>						
Ferret #7	40	1350	900	4050	4050	12150
Ferret #8	40	900	450	900	12150	4050
Ferret #9	40	1350	4050	4050	4050	1350
Ferret #10	40	900	4050	4050	4050	1350
Ferret #11	40	900	450	450	4050	4050
Ferret #12	40	900	4050	12150	12150	12150
<b>MM703</b>						
Ferret #13	40	1350	450	4050	12150	4050
Ferret #14	40	1350	1350	12150	12150	4050
Ferret #15	40	1350	150	900	4050	1350
Ferret #16	40	-	-	-	-	-
Ferret #17	40	1350	1350	12150	12150	4050
Ferret #18	40	900	900	12150	12150	12150

1. All results are in Arbitrary Units (AU)

2. CAV = canine adenovirus, CDV = canine distemper virus, CPV = canine parvovirus, CPI5 = canine parainfluenzavirus 5, Rab = rabies

3. - = no data

**Table 4**

Blocking ELISA analysis of serum samples from Ferrets vaccinated with a combination live viral vaccine and killed Rabies vaccine, with or without additional Iscom-Matrix Adjuvant.

Groups	Rab wk 0	Rab wk 2	Rab wk 4	Rab wk 5	Rab wk 6	Rab wk 8	CAV wk 0	CAV wk 2	CAV wk 4	CAV wk 5	CAV wk 6	CAV wk 8
<b>Control Group</b>												
Ferret #1	<3	27	<3	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #2	<3	9	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #4	<3	3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #5	<3	9	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #6	<3	3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
<b>MB703</b>												
Ferret #7	<3	<3	9		>81	9	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #8	<3	<3	3	9	>81	9	<3	<3	9	9	9	3
Ferret #9	<3	<3	9	54	>81	27	<3	<3	27	81	27	9
Ferret #10	<3	<3	3	9	27	27	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #11	<3	<3	<3	9	9	27	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #12	<3	<3	<3	81	81	>=81	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
<b>MM703</b>												
Ferret #13	<3	<3	<3	3	9	27	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #14	<3	3	3	81	>81	27	<3	<3	9	27	27	3
Ferret #15	<3	9	<3	3	9	27	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #16	3	-	-	-	-	-	<3	-	-	-	-	-
Ferret #17	3	<3	3	18	>81	>=81	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #18	9	<3	<3	18	>81	>=81	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3

Groups	CDV wk 0	CDV wk 2	CDV wk 4	CDV wk 5	CDV wk 6	CDV wk 8	CPV wk 0	CPV wk 2	CPV wk 4	CPV wk 5	CPV wk 6	CPV wk 8
<b>Control Group</b>												
Ferret #1	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #2	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	<3
Ferret #3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	3	<3	9	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #4	<3	<3	6	<3	3	9	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #5	<3	3	3	<3	<3	9	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
Ferret #6	<3	<3	<3	3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3
<b>MB703</b>												
Ferret #7	<3	3	6	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	9	3	27	27
Ferret #8	<3	<3	3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	3	9	3	9
Ferret #9	<3	3	6	6	6	<3	<3	9	54	3	>81	>81
Ferret #10	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	3	54
Ferret #11	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3
Ferret #12	<3	9	3	<3	9	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	9
<b>MM703</b>												
Ferret #13	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3	3	<3	27	>81	>81
Ferret #14	<3	3	<3	3	9	9	<3	3	9	<3	9	>81
Ferret #15	<3	<3	<3	3	<3	9	<3	27	<3	<3	3	27
Ferret #16	<3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ferret #17	<3	3	9	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	9
Ferret #18	<3	9	<3	6	<3	27	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3

1. All results are in Titers

2. CAV = canine adenovirus, Rab = rabies virus, CDV = canine distemper virus, CPV = canine parvovirus

3. - = not tested